

Message Text

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15

ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /115 W

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R 100905Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3375

INFO USUN NEW YORK 0401

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2860

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: LOS: SRI LANKA CONSIDERING UNILATERAL CLAIM

1. DURING SEPTEMBER 8 CALL BY AMBASSADOR AND
LOS TEAM ON MDFA SECRETARY W.T. JAYASINGHE,
LATTER STATED THAT SRI LANKA NOW CONSIDERING
LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING 12-MILE TERRITORIAL
SEA AND 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. AMBASSADOR SAID
TEAM MADE STRONG APPEAL TO RECONSIDER SUCH
ACTION POINTING OUT THAT UNILATERAL CLAIMS,
PARTICULARLY BY A COUNTRY WHICH HAS LEADERSHIP
POSITION IN LOS CONFERENCE, WOULD BE VERY
DAMAGING, MAKING SUCCESSFUL LOS NEGOTIATIONS MORE
DIFFICULT AND INCREASING PRESSURE IN OTHER
COUNTRIES TO TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION OF THEIR OWN.
SECRETARY STATED SRI LANKA WOULD PROBABLY
ONLY PASS ENABLING LEGISLATION PENDING
CONCLUSION OF LOS CONFERENCE. JAYASINGHE
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MADE CLEAR THAT SRI LANKA'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN WAS

TO KEEP IN STEP WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN REGION,
MENTIONING SPECIFICALLY BANGLADESH AND BURMA.

2. IN LATER MEETING PINTO CONFIRMED THAT
SRI LANKA IS CONSIDERING UNILATERAL ACTION.
HE STRESSED THAT ANY ACTION WOULD BE GENERAL
IN CHARACTER, AND WOULD NOT SPECIFY EITHER
CONTENT OR EXTENT OF TERRITORIAL SEA OR ECONOMIC
ZONE. PINTO DESCRIBED CONTEMPLATED ACTION AS
"TURNING SCREW" A BIT TO ENCOURAGE LOS CONFERENCE
ACTION. PINTO ALSO STRESSED THAT MAJOR REASON
FOR ACTION WOULD BE TO KEEP IN STEP WITH
NEIGHBORING STATES.

3. A FACTOR IN SRI LANKA'S DECISION WILL
PROBABLY BE UNILATERAL ACTION BY OTHER COUNTRIES
IN REGION. DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE
EMBASSY COLOMBO WITH LIST OF ALL RECENT UNILATERAL
OCEAN CLAIMS IN SOUTH ASIA (PARTICULARLY INDIA,
PAKISTAN, BANGLADESH, BURMA) AND ANY INFORMATION
WE HAVE ON ANY PLANS FOR FURTHER UNILATERAL ACTION.
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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